



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 61.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

Washington, June 1—During the consideration of the naval appropriation bill an amendment was offered that no part of the appropriation be expended for foreign coal to be used by the marine corps on the Pacific coast of the United States. After a slight modification of this amendment it was agreed to. Then followed an amendment offered by "Uncle Joe Cannon" that staggered those who have been watching his performances in the house of representatives. "Uncle Joe's" amendment provided "That the coal shall be mined by labor that is employed not exceeding eight hours a day." After considerable discussion this amendment was adopted. Verily, but times and opinions do change.

FEDERAL UNION GETS MORE MONEY

Mineville, N. Y., June 1—The Federal Labor Union of this city, comprising approximately 700 members, employed in and around zinc mines, have just secured a 10¢ a day increase. The company has also agreed that it will meet with a committee from the union in the future. Further, that another conference will be granted in three months to consider a still further increase in wages; and also the question of reducing the workday. Negotiations have been in progress for several weeks, and at one time a strike appeared imminent, but matters, as stated above, have been worked out satisfactorily to both employees and employers.

POWDER TRUST HIT

Washington, June 1—During the consideration of the naval appropriation bill, an item appropriating \$1,150,000 for the "purchase and manufacture" of smokeless powder, an amendment was offered and adopted eliminating the word "purchase," and also reducing the appropriation to \$900,000. The appropriation bill thus provides that the government shall "manufacture" smokeless powder, thus eliminating the trust.

LEATHER WORKERS WIN

Chicago, June 1—The leather workers of this city, after a struggle with the employers, have returned to work with an agreement that all differences are to be adjusted by a committee of the union and the employers.

HEYBURN HAS ANOTHER SPASM

Washington, June 1.--Senator Heyburn of Idaho, than whom labor has no more uncompromising enemy than he, was presented an occasion during the discussion of the eight-hour bill in the senate, to air his discomfited views on labor's rights. The senator has an inexhaustible supply of vitriolic language ready for instant use when the interests of labor are under discussion. During the debate on the eight-hour bill Senator Heyburn, made use of the following language: "There is no crying need for it. If there were I would be more patient with the effort, the super-human effort, to legislate on a subject that needs no legislation. There is no demand for it except from the paid representatives of the real workmen, and it is the snap of a whip. I do not recognize the right of any man or the representative of organized men to snap a whip at the congress of the United States, and it will be a sad day for the government when it shall be done. I will treat them as fairly and as liberally as I would the representatives of the biggest monopolies in the country, and I will not deal with them any more liberally or fairly. I will protect them against oppression, but I will not allow them, merely because they think they have the power, to sit above our heads and say, 'We want this legislation, and we are going to have it, or we will see to it that you are defeated at the polls at the next election'". Further along in the debate the senator gave utterance to the following: "We have now prohibited the sturdy, robust young men of 12 and 13 and 14 years of age from participating in the support of the families of which they are members. Why? For the benefit of those young men? No man will dare to claim that, but in order to lessen the supply of labor in the interest of the agitators. That is why we did it, and I have not to carry on my shoulders the sin of participating in that kind of legislation merely because there was a hue and cry for it. There was no demand from the widows and the disabled people of the country who depend upon their children under the age which we fixed in that legislation, that we forbid by law those robust and capable supporters from performing their duty. There came to the senate no petition from those mothers and dependent relatives and old people asking for that legislation. There were no petitions from them, and there are no petitions from that generation represented by the young men between 12 and 15 years asking that they be relieved from the performance of their share in support of the family. Did it ever occur to senators that we should have heard through some means from that class of people? No. We were hearing from the class of people who limit the apprentices in the fields of industry through a selfish purpose of enabling them more easily to control the field of labor within their own limits. It came from the same source." Labor will remain on the "job" in spite of misrepresentatives of the Senator Heyburn stripe.

PAPER MILL WORKERS

London, June 1.--In the past 16 years the paper mill workers have been endeavoring to secure the abolition of the "long drag" system. This is a system under which employes are compelled to work on Saturday afternoon and night, and in many cases on Sunday. As a result of this agitation many of the paper manufacturers have consented to close their mills at noon on Saturdays and keep them closed until 6 o'clock Monday morning. Only 10% of the manufacturers have refused to establish this new condition.

Columbus, June 1.--The constitutional convention of this state has completed its labors. One important provision adopted by the convention is the abolishing of the contract system in all the penal institutions of the state. The provision goes further than the constitutional provision of New York, in that it also forbids the sale of any prison made goods whether manufactured in the state or not, unless they are stamped "Prison made". A law passed six years ago abolished the contract system in the state penitentiary and reformatory, but did not touch the system in the workhouses. Contracts in the Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Zanesville workhouses are now held by the Bromwell Brush and Wire Goods Company and, in addition to the above institutions, operates at the New Jersey state prison and the Maryland penitentiary at Baltimore under the name of the Mercer Brush Company. Other important provisions in the interest of labor were adopted as follows: State legislature empowered to establish minimum wage laws; capital punishment abolished; women's suffrage provided for; initiative and referendum, provided that legislature must first pass on the proposal and, if rejected, the people can vote on the amendment or their original proposal; legal limits of amount of damages that a workman can recover removed; labor injunctions are limited to such cases where actual property is destroyed and at the hearing a trial by jury can be demanded; provision providing for direct nominations; it is made impossible for the Supreme Court of the state to declare a law unconstitutional unless five of the six judges concur; establishes an eight-hour day on all public works, whether done directly or indirectly. Labor was represented by 11 delegates, whose influence in shaping many of the important provisions in the new constitution is evident. The entire new constitution will now be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection.

HATTERS' CASE AGAIN

Washington, June 1.--The re-trial of the famous hatters' case will commence on August 20 at Hartford, Conn. Judge Martin will be the presiding judge. This case was remanded for trial by the Circuit court of appeals with the decision that the charges made against the union must be proved against every individual member of the organization involved, or, in other words, absolute proof must be adduced showing knowledge and participation in every act charged by the prosecution.

CARPENTERS VOTE TO REAFFILIATE

Washington, June 1.--Since the St. Louis convention of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., the United Brotherhood of Carpenters has not been affiliated with the department. The controversy was afterward taken up and amicably adjusted, and the United Brotherhood submitted to a referendum vote the question of reaffiliation with the department. That vote has been taken and resulted favorably, there being 32,077 votes for reaffiliation and 15,490 against.

BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT CHARTERS

Washington, June 1.--The Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, has recently granted charters for local departments at Fargo, N. D., and Fort Wayne, Ind., and applications are pending for the Indiana State Building Trades Council, Newburg, N. Y., and Kankakee, Ill.

MASSACHUSETTS COMPENSATION LAW

Boston, June 1.--The workmen's compensation law, enacted by the state legislature, will go into effect July 1 next. This measure abolishes the rule of contributory negligence, negligence of fellow servants and the assumption of risk laws and court rulings; allows a person half his regular earnings for a maximum of 300 weeks if partly incapacitated in an accident while working; gives the employee half pay for a period of 500 weeks if he is totally disabled for work by any such accident; adds from \$4 to \$10 a week to this allowance for 100 weeks if he loses both hands, both feet or 10% of sight of both eyes; makes this additional allowance for 50 weeks if he loses one hand, one foot or 10% of sight of one eye; furnishes him with the added compensation for 25 weeks for the loss of two or more fingers, thumbs or toes, and for 12 weeks for the loss of one finger or one toe; prevents exploitation by exorbitant fee charges by lawyers or doctors under any and all circumstances; exempts such sums of money as may be due him for damages from attachment for debt of any kind or description; sets his half pay allowance at a minimum of \$4 per week and a \$10 maximum, with a \$3,000 limit for total disability; in case he is killed gives his dependent relatives the equivalent of this half pay for 300 weeks, and if he has no dependent relatives allows \$200 for his funeral expenses. It will, with the exception of domestic servants and farm laborers, cover all cases where accidents occur to wage workers of both sexes, while at work for their respective employers.

TROLLEYMEN STILL RESTIVE

Holyoke, Mass.--June 1.--No satisfactory adjustment of the wage question has been reached at conferences held between the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway employees on the trolley lines in certain portions of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The companies have offered a compromised schedule of 22¢ to 27¢ per hour. The trolley men demand a flat rate of 30¢ per hour. The compromise offer of the company is not looked upon favorably by the men, and the situation at the present time is somewhat strained, although there is some talk that the entire matter may go to arbitration.

INVESTIGATES BUTTON WORKERS' STRIKE

Muscatine, Ia.--June 1.--President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, in company with President Urick of the Iowa State Federation of Labor, were in this city recently, making an investigation of the strike against the button factories. There are about 800 button workers still on strike.

TEAMSTERS GET ADVANCE

Boston, June 1.--The Baggage and Transfer Drivers' Union has secured a new agreement granting additional betterments from the largest local employing corporation. The union had voted to strike, but the company acceded to the unions demands, thus averting a conflict.

COMPARATIVE CHARTER STATEMENT

Washington, June 1.--Charters issued by the American Federation of Labor from October 1, 1910 to April 30, 1911, total 145. For a corresponding period, October 1, 1911 to April 30, 1912, the number of charters issued reach 172.

Washington, June 1.—Senator Crawford of South Dakota, in a speech recently made in the senate advocating the passage of an amendment to the federal constitution fixing the terms of office of judges of inferior federal courts at 10 years, said in part: "There is much which calls for criticism in the administration of our courts. There are defects in judicial procedure, both civil and criminal, which all admit should be remedied. When the court is a state tribunal and the term of the judge elective, the people can easily correct abuses by reforming the judicial procedure, shortening the term of judges and refusing to re-elect the unworthy ones, but the remedy is more difficult where the judge is a federal officer holding his position during life and good behavior and where he cannot be removed except by impeachment. The inferior federal courts, however, are creatures of statute except as to tenure of office, and Congress may control them. It may, in its discretion, abolish them or reduce their powers or limit their jurisdiction. It behooves us to heed the complaints that are being made on every hand in regard to the glaring defects in the civil and criminal procedure of both the state and federal judiciary." It is quite evident that Senator Crawford is not in favor of the recall of judges. It is also apparent that the opinion of the people with reference to the federal judiciary is having its influence upon the minds and actions of United States Senators.

JOURNEYMEN TAILOR MOVEMENTS

Bloomington, Ill., June 1.—Local unions of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America in Rochester, N. Y., Toledo and Calgary, Canada, are still on strike, contending for the union shop against an effort in the Master Tailors' Association to establish the open shop. The international union has a large treasury and is financing the strike and will continue to do so until a victory is won. The strikes have been in progress nearly three months. New local unions have been chartered at Haverhill Mass., Trenton, N. J., Waterbury, Conn., Woodland, Cal., and Dunkirk, N. Y. John B. Lennon, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor and ex-general secretary of the International Tailors' Union, has been nominated for delegate to the Rochester convention of the A. F. of L., and E. J. Brais, general secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America has been nominated for congress from the 17th Illinois district on the Socialist ticket.

A. F. OF L. STRIKE BENEFITS

Washington, June 1.—The federal labor and trade unions attached directly to the American Federation of Labor, there being no international organization holding jurisdiction over the class of work performed by the membership of these unions, have been recipients of large strike benefits during the last seven months. The constitution of the American Federation of Labor provides that where organizations have been in continuous good standing for one year its members (in good standing for one year also) are entitled to a strike benefit of \$4 per week. The first seven months of the fiscal year, according to a report rendered by Secretary Morrison to the executive council, shows that \$80,069 have been paid out as strike benefits to members of the organizations referred to. This is the largest amount of strike benefits ever paid out by the Federation in any one like period. Benefits are still being drawn by a large number of strikers.

RECEIVER FOR JED COAL COMPANY

Washington, June 1--The Jed Coal Company, with coal mines two miles from Welch, W. Va., suffered a terrible disaster on March 26, in which the lives of 83 men were sacrificed. This company employed non-union miners who received 20% less than union wages. The safe condition of the mine was certified to by the state commissioner of immigration of the state of West Virginia, John Nugent, prior to the catastrophe. A full exposition of this case appeared in the May number of the American Federationist, under the caption "Murder is Murder." As an aftermath of this disaster the following appears in "Fuel", a publication devoted to the coal mining interests, published at Chicago. "The Jed Coal and Coke Company of McDowell county, W. Va., has gone into the hands of a receiver, A. H. Storrs, President, being appointed to that position. The court acted at the request of President Storrs, who succeeded W.A. Lathrop, who, with 83 miners, was killed in an explosion in the Jed mine on March 26."

THE RAILWAY SITUATION

London, June 1--One of the most prosperous and flourishing trade unions is the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association, and according to the annual report just issued the past year has been one of the most remarkable in the association's history. There has been great activity in the ship building industry and a general increase in wages has been secured, with the 48-hour week. The total reserve fund of the organization reaches \$515,000.

BRICK LAYERS GET 44-HOUR WEEK

Worcester, Mass., June 1--The controversy between the bricklayers and the contractors has been terminated, the issues having been decided by an arbitration committee. The bricklayers endeavored to secure a 44-hour week for the entire year. The arbitration board granted the 44-hour week for June, July, August and September of this year. It is understood, however, that next spring the 44-hour week goes into effect permanently for the year.

GRANT JURISDICTION

Washington, June 1--President Johnston of the International Association of Machinists appeared before the executive council at its recent meeting and requested that the organizations of Machinists Helpers, under charter of the American Federation of Labor, be turned over to the International Association of Machinists, and that jurisdiction be conceded. The executive council took favorable action and conceded the jurisdiction to the machinists, and the locals of Machinists' helpers have been instructed to apply for charters to the machinists, which will be granted without cost.

PAINTERS GET AGREEMENT

Worcester, June 1--Twenty-seven of the thirty-four painting firms in this city have signed the new schedule agreed upon between the local Painters' union and the Master Painters' Association, and practically all of the painters who went on strike on April 1 have resumed their old positions. The new agreement calls for the 44-hour week and a substantial increase in the wage schedule beginning April 1, 1913.

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CARMEN

Kansas City, Mo., June 1--The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America has secured a splendid schedule with the southern system of railroads known as the Southern Railway Company; Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company; Alabama Great Southern Railway Company; Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company; Mobile and Ohio Railway Company, and the Virginia and South Western Railway Company. New rules have been secured in addition to an increase in pay, and all has been accomplished without friction. The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has also been successful in organizing local lodges at Bridgeburg, Ont., Can.; Bay City, Mich., and Milwaukee, Wis. The national organization also shows a continued and steady increase in membership of existing lodges.

FEDERAL UNION GETS RAISE

New York, June 1--Organizer Hugh Frayne reports that he has just been successful in securing an agreement for the Vacuum Bottle and Apparatus Glass Blowers' Union No. 14,201, A. F. of L., and two firms employing its members. The agreement concedes the eight-hour work day. In the case of the Vacuum Specialty Company of New York the wage increase amounts to 25% and in the case of the American Thermos Bottle Company, 20% increase, equalizing the wages of the men employed by both companies. The minimum wage of the men is from \$30 to \$35 per week. The firms also agree to use the union label of the American Federation of Labor on their products.

STREET AND ELECTRIC MEN

Detroit, June 1--The local association of street and electric railway employees has just secured an agreement with the Detroit United Railways which fixes the wages at 25¢ per hour for the first six months, 28¢ for the second and third six months and 30¢ per hour for those of eighteen or more months of service. The new scale is an increase of 2¢ per hour to first six months' service men and half a cent per hour to the classes of more than six months of service. The aggregate annual increase for motormen and conductors reaches \$90,000, with 2,100 men affected.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS

Indianapolis, June 1--The district council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in Saginaw and Bay City, Mich., report an increase in wages from 40¢ to 45¢ per hour, and the establishment of the Saturday half holiday. This achievement was brought about after a strike lasting two days.

BREWERY WORKERS GET AGREEMENT

Dubuque, Ia., June 1--The brewery workers of this city have negotiated new agreements with all the local breweries for a period of five years. The agreement carries with it an increase in wages and a betterment of conditions and the negotiations were conducted without friction.

WANTS FILING TIME ON TELEGRAMS

Washington, June 1.--S. A. Konenkamp, president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, appeared recently before the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce to urge favorable consideration of the Cary bill, providing that telegraph companies shall put the filing time on messages, as is done in Europe, and also in Massachusetts and Maryland under the state laws. This bill is designed to stop the practice of telegraph companies sending messages by mail. The most conspicuous instance of sending messages by mail occurred at the time of the San Francisco earthquake, when thousands of messages were accepted by the telegraph companies, but owing to the fact that the wires were down and communication impossible, the messages were sent by mail, although the telegraph companies accepted the ruling telegraph rates for transmission.

CLASSED AS A MYTH

Washington, June 1.--For some little time literature has been sent out over the country by an individual for the purpose of securing affiliation to what is termed a mythical organization called the "League of Government Employees." The "league" proposed to bring in close touch all of the organizations in the postal service. This effort has been branded by the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers as not worthy of any notice. At a joint meeting of representatives of the United National Association of Postoffice Clerks, Railway Mail Association and National Association of Letter Carriers, a resolution was passed protesting against the using of the names of those associations by the "League of Government Employees" to further its propositions.

MARTIN FOX MONUMENT

Washington, June 1.--The unveiling of the monument erected in honor of Martin Fox will take place at Cincinnati on July 5, with appropriate ceremonies. Martin Fox was at one time president of the International Molders' Union, and for the fidelity which he displayed on behalf of the organization and the success which attended his efforts, his memory is greatly revered. President Campers, Secretary Morrison and Vice-President O'Connell of the American Federation of Labor have been invited to be present at the ceremonies, as well as other members of the executive council.

ARGUMENTS IN APPEAL CASE

Washington, June 1.--As will be remembered the suit instituted in St. Louis by C. W. Post of "Grape Nuts" fame, against the American Federation of Labor for \$250,000 damages, or really \$750,000, growing out of the Buck Stove and Range controversy, was dismissed by the St. Louis court. Post then appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals and arguments were recently made in this case. It is believed that the appeal of Post will be dismissed and the decision of the lower court sustains.

MINNEAPOLIS DOINGS

Minneapolis, Minn., June 1.--The city council has just passed a resolution increasing the pay of laborers in the sewer waterworks and paving departments from \$2.25 to \$2.40 a day of eight hours.

EIGHT HOUR DAY IN NAVAL BILL

Washington, June 1--The naval appropriation bill has passed the house of representatives. Congressman Buchanan of Illinois, a member of the Structural Iron Workers, was successful in having incorporated in various parts of the bill a provision "That no part of this appropriation shall be expended for the procuring or producing of such ordnance material and for such armament of ships as manufactured in a government establishment from or by any person, firm or corporation which has not at the time of commencement and during the prosecution of such work established an eight hour workday for all employees, laborers and mechanics engaged or to be engaged in the work on the materials and armament named herein."

EMBROIDERY MAKERS

New York, June 1--A convention of embroidery workers of this city and surrounding territory held a meeting recently and decided to organize an international union. The new organization is to be known as the Embroidery Workers' International Union of America. There are also organizations of this craft in Chicago and Baltimore and provisions were made looking toward the thorough organization of this class of workers throughout the country.

BAKERS WIN STRIKE

Fort Worth, Tex., June 1--The bakers in this city have just won a victory. After a six weeks' strike an agreement has been reached whereby all the Fort Worth bakeries are to be manned by union men. The agreement provides for the use of the label and also an arbitration clause. This makes Fort Worth 100% strong for the union bakers.

ST. PAUL DOINGS

St. Paul, June 1--The pressmen who were locked out on the two papers in this city are still out conducting a vigorous campaign against them. The Trades and Labor Assembly has unseated a local union of the International Steamfitters, with the advice to seek amalgamation with the United Association of Plumbers, etc.

ALABAMA STATE FEDERATION

Anniston, Ala., June 1--The Alabama State Federation of Labor recently in convention, aside from transacting the regular business before that organization, passed a resolution declaring in favor of woman's suffrage.

MOTOR COMPANY RAISES WAGES

Detroit, June 1--The Ford Motor Company has informed its 5,000 employees that their working day would be reduced from 10 hours to 9 and that the pay of all employees working on an hourly rate would be increased 15%.

AMALGAMATION ANNOUNCED

Boston, June 1--The Boston union of the United Boot and Shoe Workers has announced that it has amalgamated with the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

PRINTERS GET MORE WAGES

Toledo, O., June 1--After several conferences the local Typographical Union and newspaper publishers have agreed on a new wage scale which means an increase of \$2.25 per week for every member employed on the Toledo newspapers, and the aggregate will total an increase of \$76,000 per year. The new rate will be \$26.75 for night work and \$23.75 for day work. The agreement calls, of course, for the strictly union shop, together with regulations regarding apprentices, who will be given a thorough education in the printing trade by the union after the first six months. This education comprises a technical training under the system inaugurated by the International Typographical Union.

TO BUILD LABOR TEMPLE

Terre Haute, Ind., June 1--Some months ago it was decided by the labor organizations of this city to build a labor temple. All of the organizations have taken a deep interest in the project and entertainments of a various character have been held since that time for the purpose of providing the nucleus for purchasing the site. A neat sum has already been gathered, and it is expected that before long a sufficient amount of money will be available to purchase a site.

VOLUNTARILY ADVANCES WAGES

Holyoke, Mass., June 1--The Farr Alpaca Company has surprised its employees by issuing a notice that a raise in wages would be voluntarily granted. The wage increase runs from 9% to 14%. On January 1 this company did not reduce wages, although it reduced the working time two hours a week, the same schedule was paid for 54 hours, to conform to the state law, as had been paid for the 56-hour week.

PRINT WORKS-RAISE WAGES

Haverstraw, N. Y., June 1--The strike which has been in progress at the Garnerville Print Works for nearly two weeks, in which over 800 men and women were involved, has drawn to a close, and the employees have returned to work. The employers conceded a substantial increase in wages, which means that \$30,000 per year has been added to the pay roll of the company.

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE

Moneton, N. B., June 1--The iron molders of the Record Foundry and Machine Company of this city, who have been on strike over four months against a reduction of 20% in wages, have returned to work, the management of the company having receded from its position, granting to the iron molders the wage scale and conditions demanded by the organization.

GALESBURG WANTS A LABOR TEMPLE

Galesburg, Ill., June 1--The trade unionists of this city have organized a labor temple association, and the active spirits in the association are working diligently to raise a sufficient amount of money to purchase a site and erect a building for a home for union labor. Every indication points to the success of the enterprise.